FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 DECEMBER 1980

American Hostages

Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani told a press conference in Tehran that if the United States does not respond positively to Iran's conditions for the release of the hostages, Iran will put the hostages on trial. According to PARS, Rafsanjani said that "we will try the hostages as our last resort." Tehran radio's Arabic service quoted him as saying "the matter will end" in their trial "should the United States refuse to respond." The speaker said that the Iranian Government has made no changes in the Majlis conditions; it has only "elaborated" on how to return the late shah's wealth to Iran. Calling the United States its main enemy, Rafsanjani declared that Iran's "defeat" of the Iraqi invasion "has dashed the hopes of Carter, Reagan and their allies" to overthrow the Islamic revolution.

Iran Domestic Affairs

In an interview with a Tehran radio correspondent, Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani revealed that "in recent weeks an extensive plot was hatched against the policy of the imam." The conspiracy was foiled, the Majlis speaker added, through the efforts of the Iranian people. Part of the conspiracy, Rafsanjani said, was the publication of documents purporting to show misuse of government funds by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri and himself. He stated that the judicial authorities have been asked to investigate these matters, and he warned that the "enemies of Islam" are continuing their efforts to discredit Iranian officials and "create suspicion among the people."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tariq 'Aziz Comment--Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz told a Paris press conference that Iraq's forces "have met their objectives as designed by the political leadership" in the war with Iran and that it is Iran that is exhausted by the fighting, according to INA. The deputy prime minister said Iraq's call for negotiations is not a sign of weakness but a genuine desire for a peaceful settlement that recognizes Iraq's legitimate rights and those of the Arab nation in the region. According to AFP, 'Aziz specified those rights as Iran's recognition of Iraqi sovereignty in the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, an Iranian promise not to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs and Iran's restoration of the three disputed islands in the Gulf to the UAE. The AFP also said that the Iraqi minister confirmed that France intends to deliver the Mirage fighters Iraq ordered and that the flow of oil through Syria has been halted because of "a technical breakdown," not by the war or any Syrian political decision. Earlier reports speculated that the pipeline had been damaged by Iranian air strikes or guerrilla attacks.

Military Situation--An Iraqi General Command communique, reported by Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses, noted heavy fighting around Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Susangerd and across the Karkheh River near Dezful and claimed 297 Iranians killed. For its part, Tehran radio reported Iraqi shelling of Ahvaz, Susangerd and Abadan with minor clashes at Dub-e-Herdan, Amirabad, Shur-e Shirin and on the Allaho Akhbar Heights.

Kurdish Situation

Insurgency in Iran--Tehran radio reported recent operations by "counterrevolutionaries" in Saqqez, Sar Dasht and Parveh and claimed that in Marivan a number of Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) officials, including political officer Mohammad Sa'd Kalkal, have been captured and sentenced to death. Commenting on this claim, the clandestine Voice of Iranian Kordestan

radio said that if the death sentences on KDP officials are carried out, the KDP will execute captured revolution guards whom it has condemned to death. The radio earlier reported clashes between government forces and peshmergas near Mahabad on 17 December during which, it claimed, the peshmergas killed 118 Iranian soldiers and revolution guards. The radio also reported fighting in Shahin Dezh and said Iranian aircraft attacked Kurdish areas.

Israel

Golan Heights--Jerusalem radio reported that the Israeli Cabinet decided to recommend that the Knesset remove MK Ge'ula Kohen's private bill on annexing the Golan Heights from its agenda. Stating that the annexation proposal cannot improve Israel's security and has not come at a suitable time, the Cabinet secretary nevertheless emphasized that the Golan should remain in Israel's hands but said the issue will be decided in negotiations with Syria.

Eytan Comments--Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan, in statements reported by ITIM, emphasized Israel's desire to pursue an offensive war against "terrorists" in southern Lebanon but maintained that the IDF is deployed on a purely defensive basis on all other fronts. Eytan added that Israel has increased its support for Maj Sa'd Haddad's forces in Lebanon since it has a clear interest in maintaining this Christian strip along the border to prevent Palestinian forces approaching the fence.

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported that calm has finally returned to the strife-torn city of Zahlah following a 21 December cease-fire agreement. The Voice of Lebanon radio earlier reported intensive Syrian shelling of the city and said it was besieged by an estimated 8,000 Syrian, Palestinian and leftist forces. The Voice of Palestine radio said Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces took action against rightist militias after they amassed their forces on the streets and shelled a vehicle of the deterrent forces, killing several Syrians.

Arab Foreign Ministers Conference

According to KUNA, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, citing "diplomatic sources," revealed that contacts made by Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia during his recent tour of Gulf states led to a preliminary agreement to restore Arab unity. AL-QABAS said an agreement was reached on holding an Arab foreign ministers conference for all Arab countries except Egypt during the Islamic Conference foreign ministers meeting scheduled in Saudi Arabia on 17 January.

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NOTE: Daily Report No. 250 will not be published on 26 December 1980 because of the holiday declared for U.S. Government employees that date by Executive Order.

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KHALAF EXPECTS LARGE-SCALE ISRAELI ATTACK

NC211229 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has commented on the unsuccessful Zionist operation in which our fighters demonstrated splendid heroism against the occupation forces. He said: This new aggression is only a prelude to a large-scale aggression against Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the [Lebanese] Nationalist Movement. The purpose of this large-scale aggression will be to test the effectiveness of the Syrian-Soviet treaty. He added: We have been expecting a major Zionist aggression for months because the Begin government wants to face the new administration of President [-elect] Ronald Reagan with a new fait accompli in the south. Since the U.S. administration is committed to fully support Israel and its policies, the commanders of the Zionist military establishment have carried out minor military operations to pave the way for a major operation against the joint forces and the Syrian forces in Lebanon.

Referring to the shelling of the Syrian forces in Al-'Ayshiyah and Ar-Rayhan, brother Abu Iyad said that this was an indication that the time has come for the offensive for which Israel has been preparing and which we have been expecting.

Referring to the political objective of such an operation, he said: We cannot isolate the expected Zionist aggression from the political objective attached to it. The stalemated Camp David negotiations are being revived with an attempt to substitute the Jordanian side abroad for the Palestinian side inside [the West Bank]. This is a desperate attempt to promote the autonomy plot and ensure the success of the Camp David agreements through the new Jordanian role.

Concluding, Brother Abu Iyad said that Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese nationalist coordination must be observed to the highest degree, in order to foil the Zionist scheme and face the next battle with all that is needed for steadfastness and victory.

YASIR 'ARAFAT CABLES CONDOLANCES TO BREZHNEV

NC230830 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 23 Dec 80

["Text" of cable of condolences from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat--identified by the radio by his nom de guerre "Abu 'Ammar--to chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Leonid Brezhnev on the death of former USSR Council of Ministers Chairman Aleksey Kosygin]

[Text] Comrade Brezhnev, comrade members of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and of the CPSU Central Committee:

On my behalf and on behalf of the PLO Executive Committee, I convey to you heartfelt condolences on the death of Comrade Aleksey Kosygin following his illness. With his death, the world has lost an outstanding struggler who devoted his life to serving his nation and the causes of peace and justice throughout the world. A warm relationship of struggle existed between us and Comrade Aleksey Kosygin, a relationship we have with all the struggling leaders of the Soviet Union--the country of socialism and great Lenin. Again, Comrade Brezhnev and the CPSU Central Committee, please accept heartfelt condolences from me and from our people on the loss of this struggling leader and convey them to the great people of the Soviet Union and to the family of the deceased for this immense loss.

SAUDI ARABIA

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DISCUSS BREZHNEV GULF PLAN

LD222132 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Dec 80

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers this evening held its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al' Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister. The meeting ended at 2115.

His excellency the information minister, Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, stated that the council paid special attention to Saudi-YAR relations and heard a report by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation and chairman of the Saudi-YAR coordination council, in which he pointed out the strength and firmness of Saudi-YAR relations and the extent of their development.

His Excellency Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani added that the council then heard a report by the minister of petroleum and mineral affairs about the results of the recent OPEC ministerial council meeting in Bali, Indonesia, and the moderate role played by the kingdom during the meeting to fix the rate of increase of oil prices. The information minister reaffirmed that despite the kingdom's concern to maintain the prices, the inability of the industrialized states to control consumption and their policy of stockpiling oil made control over oil prices impossible.

His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz stressed that the kingdom will continue its moderate policy, and said: We have shouldered our international responsibilities.

His royal highness expressed his conviction that the key to the solution of the problem of oil prices is in the hands of the consuming states.

His excellency the information minister said that the council also debated the question of the Gulf security plan which Soviet President Brezhnev had spoken about. His excellency said that His Royal Highness Prince Fahd has reaffirmed that the kingdom wants to point out that the real security of the Gulf region can best be realized when the region is kept out of international conflicts and foreign interference. His Royal Highness Prince Fahd said that the first steps of good intention by the Soviet Union should be its withdrawal from Afghanistan and the removal of the aggression which took place against this Muslim country and the flagrant interference which is contrary to principles and international (?usage).

His royal highness added: We always reaffirm the true desire for peace and the removal of tension from the region in any form. We shall spare no effort in order to achieve this.

His royal highness stressed that we shall not allow any bases or facilities on our land. We shall make every effort in order to realize the security of our region and the safety of our compatriots. His royal highness said that it is in the world's interest to keep the region clear of international tension and conflicts.

His excellency the information minister said that the council was acquainted with the results of talks held by his excellency the Arab League secretary general with His Majesty King Khalid and his royal highness the crown prince and officials in the kingdom--talks which dealt with the current Arab situation and the results of the Amman summit conference.

The council also heard a report about the results of the visit by the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, His Excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, to the kingdom today.

UAE

ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS AMMAN SUMMIT

LD221059 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 15-21 Dec 80 p 22

[Interview given to 'Ali Hashim by UAE Acting Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah an-Nu'aymi in Abu Dhabi--date not given]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi--[Question] What role did the states of the Arabian Peninsula and the Arab Gulf play at the [Amman] summit and in the resolutions that were adopted?

[Answer] The Gulf states always have a role to play at Arab summits within the context of their responsibility to bring about the success of every Arab action. Their role in Amman was more important. Even though this role did not achieve great results, it has lessened the division in Arab ranks and the acuteness of the conflicts.

[Question] Will the Gulf states now play a mediating role to restore Arab unanimity and unite the ranks?

[Answer] It is very saddening that any Arab party should shun joint Arab action, especially if that party is the one that is basically concerned. However, in such cases we reiterate the Arab saying: "The absentee has his own excuse." We in the UAE have worked and will always work to unite the Arab voice and ranks.

[Question] What is your position regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war?

[Answer] We look forward to the day when the war is ended, rights are restored and the problem between the two Muslim neighbors is resolved by fraternal means and in a Muslim spirit, and not at the expense of any other party.

[Question] Iraq has often demanded that the three islands in the Strait of Hormuz (Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa), which Iran occupied toward the end of 1971, be returned to the UAE, whereas you, the state concerned, have done nothing.

[Answer] The UAE has often demanded the islands through diplomatic channels and the United Nations. However, such a demand in the present circumstances could create a clamor that might cause us more losses than gains. We are seeking by peaceful means to attain our right, and nothing more.

[Question] Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has stated that agreements will be concluded among the area's states to consolidate security. What are these agreements and what is their advantage?

[Answer] In all fields cooperation exists among the Gulf states, including the field of security and the consolidation of this security. Cooperation among the area's states is necessary, especially in the present critical circumstances.

[Question] What is the UAE's stance on the American military presence in the area, and what is being said about the Soviet threat to the oil sources?

[Answer] The UAE's stance on the foreign forces in the area is clear. We have declared time after time that this presence does not serve peace in the Gulf and creates conflict between the two superpowers.

[Question] There has been much talk about a new European initiative regarding the Middle East. Can you give us any information about it?

[Answer] As far as the European initiative is concerned, there is a positive development on the part of the European states, which are seeking to find a just solution to the Middle East crisis. However, so far we regard what the nine have done as insufficient. We ask these states to develop their stance and to work seriously toward recognizing the Arab and Palestinian rights, and also to recognize the Palestinian people's right to their land and to the establishment of their own independent state on that land.

[Question] Is it true that King Husayn has been authorized to speak in the name of the Arabs in the United States and Europe?

[Answer] As an Arab leader who is concerned with the problem, King Husayn does not need authorization to speak with any party about a subject that is directly related to him and his country.

[Question] There have been many Arab summits and many summit resolutions. When will these resolutions be translated into deeds?

[Answer] There has been a new turn in summit resolutions following the Baghdad, Tunis and recent Amman summit resolutions. We now observe that commitment to resolutions has begun to assume a serious character. We in the UAE have honored all our commitments since the Baghdad summit up to the Amman summit. We have begun to implement what concerns us in the Amman summit resolutions.

[Question] Do you support the convening of a summit to discuss the Lebanese issue?

[Answer] In fact the Lebanese problem causes us a heavy heart. We in the UAE have done everything in our power to resolve this problem and sought, inside and outside Arab conferences, to find a solution to it. We were a party to the Arab Deterrent Forces but we achieved no results, regrettably. However, we still believe that the foundations on which the lawful government in Lebanon and the parties concerned with the dispute had agreed, especially at the Riyadh summit and the Bayt ad-Din meetings, are sound. Had they been implemented, Lebanon would have averted all the dangers to which it is being subjected.

GENERAL COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE NO 187

JN221744 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Dec 80

[Communique No 187 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 22 December 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Our valiant armed forces continue to strike at and destroy the enemy's remnants and concentrations in their operations sectors. Our armed forces continue to inflict grave losses in life and equipment on him. Following are the results of our armed forces' activities yesterday evening and today:

I. The ground forces:

A. Known enemy losses:

1. In personnel: Our victorious troops yesterday and today continued to strike at and destroy the enemy's concentrations facing our advanced units in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. Our troops inflicted great losses in life on the enemy. Known losses were well over 200 dead and wounded.
2. Four were killed in the Mehran area.
3. Our combat patrols yesterday evening launched several raids on enemy positions in the Dezful sector, killing 15 and wounding several others.
4. An enemy force was sighted in front of our units in the Dezful sector. The force was across the Karkheh River. Our units engaged the enemy force with light weapons and artillery. The force was then forced to flee, leaving behind 36 killed.
5. Yesterday, our units in the Khafajiyeh [Susangerd] region confronted an enemy force which tried to approach our positions. Our units clashed with the enemy force, forcing it to retreat. It left behind 18 killed and a large number of wounded.
6. Yesterday evening, our units opened fire on enemy remnants in front of our positions in the Abadan area, forcing them to flee. Left behind were 24 killed.

This makes the number of known enemy losses in personnel well over 297 killed and a large number of wounded.

II. In equipment:

A. The following were destroyed: One tank; two troop carriers; two armored cars; three vehicles, two of which were loaded with hardware; seven guns of various calibers; a machine-gun emplacement; and four piles of hardware. One boat was sunk in the Karun River.

B. One serviceable 106-mm gun loaded on a vehicle was captured.

C. Our losses:

1. In personnel: Eight martyrs in various sectors.
2. In equipment: The following were damaged: one tank, eight troop carriers, three vehicles, one mortar and one boat on the Karun River.

III. The air force:

A. It was ascertained by us that one enemy plane was shot down in the Panjwin sector on 19 December 1980. This is in addition to the three planes which were shot down on that day.

B. Our planes today raided concentrations of enemy armored cars northeast of Dehloran, scoring direct hits on them. Our planes returned safely to their base.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 December 1980.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OUTLINES STAND ON WAR

JN212112 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2048 GMT 22 Dec 80

[Text] Paris, 22 Dec (INA)--Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council members and deputy prime minister, has stated that Iraq's military, political and economic stand has been and will continue to be the strongest. During his meeting tonight with editors-in-chief of French newspapers and heads of the French media, 'Aziz asserted that it is Iran which will be largely exhausted as a result of the continuation of the war which is raging inside its territory and not on Iraq's borders. The deputy prime minister ridiculed the claims that Iraq had failed in its attack on Iran. He added: Our forces have met their objectives as designed by the political leadership. When our forces achieved their objectives on 28 September, President Saddam Husayn made a speech in which he called for a peaceful settlement with Iran in accordance with the basis that would secure our rights and sovereignty.

'Aziz explained that Iraq's continued call for holding negotiations and achieving a political settlement in accordance with the principles of justice and international law does not constitute a point of weakness.

'Aziz said: We advocated a peaceful solution prior to the eruption of war, when it started and during the war. We say this now, from a position of strength, because our objective is to restore Iraq's legitimate rights and those of the Arab nation and to achieve normal relations with Iran based on respect for sovereignty, on Iran's giving up its expansionist trends and on nonintervention in the affairs of the area's states.

'Aziz recalled that Iraq has defined its stand clearly and with high responsibility toward the conflict, adding that the other party failed to present any ideas or programs on the future relations with Iraq. The other party, he added, is talking in a language unacceptable to the international community and is refusing to demarcate the international borders with Iraq. Therefore, the present regime in Iran is responsible for the conflict and for the failure to reach a peaceful settlement.

HAMMADI MEETS YUGOSLAV LEADER MIJATOVIC 22 DEC

JN221829 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 Dec 80

[Text] Belgrade, 22 Dec (INA)--Cvijetin Mijatovic, president of the State Presidency of Yugoslavia, met here this afternoon with Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi. In a statement to the INA correspondent following the 2-hour meeting, Dr Hammadi said that he explained Iraq's stand on the war with Iran. He said that he conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings.

Dr Hammadi added that the Yugoslav leader explained during the meeting his country's stand on the conflict between Iraq and Iran, asserting that this stand is based on the principles of justice and peace and nonintervention in domestic affairs. The meeting was attended by Josip Vrhovec, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, and the Iraqi ambassador in Belgrade.

WPC CHAIRMAN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE; PARTY DEPARTS

JN221436 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Dec 80

[Text] WPC Chairman Romesh Chandra has affirmed that Syria, under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, stands in the frontline against Zionism and imperialism and is struggling to achieve sovereignty and world peace. In a press conference he held this morning, Chandra affirmed the WPC's support for the Soviet-Syrian friendship and cooperation treaty, adding that this treaty is not only of great significance for both states, but is also of great significance for world peoples, justice and peace.

The WPC chairman denounced the repeated Israeli attacks on Lebanon, describing these attacks as savage and barbarous acts. Chandra also announced the WPC's support for the struggle being waged by the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and Palestinian resistance to defend Lebanon's Arabism and sovereignty. Chandra lauded the heroic stand which has been adopted by Syria in defense of Lebanon and Palestine.

Chandra praised the proposals announced by Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev during his visit to India and whose purpose is to achieve peace in the Gulf region, saying: These proposals are logical and constructive since their purpose is to defend the sovereignty and independence of the Gulf states and to achieve peace in that region.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, Chandra said: We are sorry for the outbreak of such a war and have appealed to the two sides to stop it since it does not serve the two people's interest. U.S. imperialism, which has exploited this war in order to bolster its positions and military presence in the Gulf region, is the sole beneficiary.

Chandra attached great importance to the world conference for solidarity with the Syrian people and the PLO, which will be held next June. He pointed out that such a conference will have great significance since it will bolster the support and backing of the world nationalist, progressive and peace-loving elements for the struggle being waged by Syria and the PLO against the Zionist elements and aggression.

In conclusion, Chandra expressed his optimism that the struggle being waged by the Arab people and their liberal and progressive elements will culminate in victory over the Zionist and imperialist aggressors.

22 Dec Departure

JN221710 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Dec 80

[Text] Damascus--The WPC delegation under Romesh Chandra left Damascus for Helsinki this afternoon at the end of a 3-day visit to Syria. The WPC delegation was seen off at Damascus international airport by Comrade Jabir Bajbuj, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member and chairman of the National Council of the Peace Partisans Movement in Syria; the president of the press association; and several members of the executive office of the National Council of the Peace Partisans in Syria.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN ADDRESSES JERUSALEM COMMITTEE OPENING

LD230040 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Dec 80

[Speech by King Hassan II opening fourth session of Jerusalem Committee, held at Royal Palace, Rabat, 22 December--recorded]

[Text] Praise be to God; blessings on His prophet. Your royal highness, your excellencies, gentlemen:

To us, welcoming you has become like stating the obvious in view of the fact that all esteemed members of this committee--as I have stated in the past--are no longer just foreign ministers of their countries. To me personally they have become road companions, [word indistinct] companions on a good road; we shall march forward on the road and reach the goal.

It is a known fact to you that next month the Islamic summit conference will be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We believe that the gathering of Muslims on that pure land will bring back to them the purity of intention, clearness of conscience and sincerity in every action they have decided to do or all that they have decided to [word indistinct].

Among the tasks of the Jerusalem Committee--on which we all are working with sincerity, patriotism and faith--is to put before our brothers in the Muslim countries the work we have achieved and also the conclusions we have reached.

Hence the importance of our task and the sacredness of our message become obvious to all. You all know, my dear comrades, that our activity in Rabat tomorrow will be for the purpose of producing a detailed report on the methods and policy and actions we suggest to our Muslim brothers, which are apt to bring about three results: the liberation of holy Jerusalem; contributions to the liberation of the occupied Arab territories; contributions to bring into existence the Palestinian entity actually there and defying challenges.

Such an action is (?not) difficult, if we are to take into consideration the experience we all have--if we are to add up and calculate this experience. We possess loads and loads of experience of what we have seen, have heard and have experienced. I am confident that some realism and seriousness will enable us to produce a working paper which will be at the level of Islamic genius. (?It seems to me that) the Arab world and the Muslim world record only the history of lost opportunities. I do not want this committee to follow suit and become a recorder of lost opportunities; nor do I want the coming conference--to which we attach great hopes--to be among those which sign the register of lost opportunities.

There is yet another point which I am sure you have reached and have analyzed. The year 1981 will be a decisive year for the world. This is because the administration in the United States has changed; in Europe, the administration in Germany changed this year and the administration in Britain changed the year before that; France will experience either a confirmation of the current presidency or a change in its administration.

If we are to add to all this that which is taking place among the ranks of the European socialist community, and which is bound to form a human turning point with regard to the international forces, we come to the inevitable conclusion that our work of yesterday--although it took place in Fes 2 months ago--is not the work of today, in view of the changes the world has known or the radical changes it will experience.

If we are to put together our faith [word indistinct] and our belief in reality and [words indistinct], I am confident that we shall produce a working paper of which our children can be proud, proud of the fact that their fathers produced that plan which must be courageous and ambitious, but at the same time keeping pace with realism and [word indistinct] so as to ensure our interests. I pray God to grant us success.

If we are to refer to the files, we shall see that the Secretariat General is in possession of a working paper presented by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Moroccan paper. He who has a working paper and wants to add it to these documents, let him do so. I believe it is better to regard the two working papers as a starting point for our work.

At first I was going to suggest to you that you form a drafting committee, but when I saw our small number I said that it was necessary that every member of this team of ours, the Jerusalem team for which I wish success in its struggle, be a principled and natural member of the drafting committee. If you agree to my proposal we shall commence our work tomorrow, God willing, to produce the working paper. It will be read [words indistinct] to us. We ask God to grant us success. Peace be upon you. [applause]

SUDAN

KHALIL INTERVIEWED ON PLO, GULF, ERITREA

LD191045 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 8 Dec 80 p 11

[Interview given to Sa'ud al-Harbi by Sudanese First Vice President and Defense Minister Lt Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil in Jidda--date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: The strong relations between the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and Sudan are bolstered by exchanges of official visits at various levels between the two countries. Your Excellency, will you please explain the nature of relations at present despite the changes that are now taking place in the Arab world?

Answer: As you said in your question, Sudan's relations with the Saudi Arabian Kingdom are strong, firm and cohesive. They are relations of a particular nature crystallizing in the issues that concern the two countries in the area. The two countries share in the responsibility of maintaining the security and safety of the Red Sea area. The identity of views and ideas of the two countries and peoples on issues that concern the whole world as well as on dealing with Arab, regional and international issues give a special character to these relations. I hope that the same relations as those which have always existed between our two fraternal countries will also prevail throughout the world.

Question: In its final statement the Amman summit conference emphasized the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, to determine their own fate and to establish their independent state on their national soil. It also asserted that Security Council Resolution 242 is inconsistent with Arab rights and does not constitute a basis for resolving the Middle East crisis. Despite this, many Western leaders advocate this resolution as a basic solution to this problem. What is Your Excellency's view on this and what are the reasons which led to the adoption of this decisive resolution?

Answer: This resolution was drawn up in certain circumstances and situations which have now been gradually overtaken in many aspects by the development of the Palestinian Arab issue as well as by regional and international developments. Therefore, such a resolution is no longer suitable as a basis for solving the Middle East issue nor does it satisfy Arab aspirations.

The Palestinian people and the PLO must be recognized in any Arab and international efforts aimed at achieving a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict because the Palestinian issue is the crux of the conflict. Palestinian rights are not referred to in this resolution. This is the big gap in this resolution. Therefore, the Arab states must take a united firm stand against this resolution. The Arabs must strongly unite their efforts in order to restore Arab rights and the occupied Arab territories. The PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This great nation must rely on itself to establish a developed Arab military force on a strong economic base and to consolidate its military defensive and economic capabilities so as to be able to depend on its people to achieve justice and comprehensive Arab solidarity.

Question: The Iraqi-Iranian war has entered its third month. From a military standpoint this war has been characterized as slow and protracted, and this is causing greater harm to the two states. As a politician and military man, what are your comments on this war? What is your opinion about the resolution which was adopted by the recent summit conference, calling on Iran to respond to the cease-fire call and to resolve this problem peacefully?

Answer: Fraternal Iraq and Iran are two Islamic states whose interests and stability concern us and are certainly beneficial to the whole world. Wars of any kind are destructive. If solutions can be achieved by peaceful means, that is preferable and better. Like any war, this war is exhausting and weakening the two countries. This is why the Arab summit conference could not turn a blind eye and deaf ear to the war that is taking place between the two countries. We hope that the two sides will end this state of affairs and resort to negotiations and peaceful solutions. We also hope that the Arab summit's call will be accepted and the fighting stopped immediately because the war has dragged on for a long time, as you said in your question. If this war drags on it will not be in the interest of either of the two disputing parties. We and all the Arab states hope that this resolution will be implemented for the benefit of everybody and for the establishment of peace and security.

Question: Does Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri's visit to Ethiopia signify that Sudan is satisfied with what is taking place between Ethiopia and Eritrea? Please explain.

Answer: The visit took place in accordance with a clear and firm strategy which Sudan has been pursuing in its policy in keeping with international charters and conventions and OAU resolutions, calling for good-neighborliness and good relations between any two countries for the preservation of peace. President Numayri's visit took place for this purpose in view of the fact that the people of Africa must resolve their problems without the supervision or trusteeship of anyone else. This is what we have always advocated in this area.

Question: What then is the best solution to this problem which has persisted up till now, especially now that the Eritrean People's Liberation Front has presented a seven-point proposal to achieve an overall solution and Ethiopia has approved of this proposal in principle?

Answer: In our view, the ideal solution to this problem between the Ethiopians and the Eritreans lies within the framework of the African regulations mapped out by the OAU. I would like to say that we do not appoint ourselves as trustees over anyone. All we want is the unification of all the Eritrean fronts under one banner so that we can discuss this issue as a whole and resolve it peacefully. My opinion is that the more these fronts unite under one banner and one aim, the better it will be and the more successful will be the results.

Question: Was President Numayri's recent visit to Ethiopia for the purpose of convincing Chairman Mengistu to find a quick and effective solution to this problem?

Answer: As I said in my previous answer, the ideal solution is for these fronts to unite within a single framework. We believe that a peaceful solution is the best solution. Naturally, President Numayri's recent visit was for the purpose of telling our brothers in Ethiopia that there is a problem in Eritrea which must be solved. Our opinion is that this problem will not be resolved by military methods at all but by peaceful means. The Eritrean fronts must unite for this purpose.

Question: The Ogaden. The Horn of Africa is still experiencing a state of turmoil between Somalia and Ethiopia. Will you please explain the main problems which are obstructing the solution of this problem between the two disputing parties? What is the extent of Sudan's moves within the framework of finding a solution to this issue?

Answer: Sudan's initiative to solve this issue was made on the basis that African problems should be resolved by the African people in accordance with OAU resolutions. The main obstacle is the lack of confidence between the two sides. Our aim is to bring these two sides together. Once confidence is established between the two parties, the OAU can play a conciliatory role. Everybody agrees with me that the continuation of this problem will lead to interventions in the area and this is neither in our interest nor in the interest of Africa and the Horn of Africa.

Question: Chad and the recurring foreign interventions and some of the states' involvement in the civil war between [Chad President] Goukouni and [Chad Minister of State for National Defense] Hissein Habre, the recent ceasefire agreement in which Habre did not participate and the increased tension and sensitivity in the area--all this will affect the neighboring states, of course. What is your opinion on this and what is Sudan's stance on this conflict?

Answer: First of all, Sudan deplores any foreign intervention in any state. Before the agreement you mentioned a ceasefire agreement was reached but the firing did not cease. It is very possible that this is the reason which prompted Habre not to participate in the recent agreement. Probably this agreement was not a serious one but was meant for a certain purpose. This is very likely. I personally went to Chad twice in this connection. What we are only interested in is that things return to normal and that our brother Chadians unite. But the other interventions have had their effect. We personally did not intervene because this is the principle which we have charted for ourselves and to which we have adhered. Regrettably, these interferences have created conflict and caused civil war and they could lead to the division of Chad into north and south. Therefore, the unity of the Chadians is in their own interest and is the ideal solution. As you have said, this naturally affects Sudan because it is a neighboring state.

MA'ARIV REPORTS 'FRIENDLY' REAGAN MESSAGE TO PERES

TA221401 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Dec 80 p 1

[Political correspondent Ilan Kfir report: "Peres Received a Message from Reagan; Satisfaction with Labor's Platform"]

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has received a message from U.S. President-elect Ronald Reagan. The message was described as very friendly and expressing the vast interest of the incoming U.S. administration in the Labor Party and its leaders.

Mr Peres will soon leave for the United States and will meet senior members of the incoming administration. The schedule of his meetings in Washington has not yet been finished. He may meet with Vice President-elect George Bush, Secretary of State-designate Alexander Haig, Richard Allen and other members of the Reagan's cabinet. At this stage, Peres will apparently not confer with President-elect Reagan. It has been reported that Peres is not inclined to hold such a meeting prior to the meeting between Mr Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

Messages reaching Labor Party headquarters report about the new U.S. administration's satisfaction with the Labor Party's political platform which they describe as considerably more moderate than that of the Likud government.

ISRAEL, SYRIA REPORTEDLY 'SOOTHED' THROUGH U.S.

TA221237 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Dec 80 p 1

[Political correspondent Ilan Kfir report: "Through U.S. Mediation: Israel Soothed and So Was Syria"]

[Text] Through its embassy in Damascus the United States conveyed an Israeli message to Syria clarifying that the IDF had no intention to attack Syrian forces in Lebanon.

In reaction, the Syrians said that their artillery shelling of the villages in the Christian enclave on Saturday was a one-time retaliation.

The United States also asked Israel to restrain its retaliatory policy in Lebanon, which, in its view, might exacerbate the situation along the northern border. The U.S. Embassies in Tel Aviv and Damascus have been exerting efforts in the past 2 days to soothe tempers.

CAPTURED TERRORISTS CLAIM UNIFIL EXPLOITED BY PLO

TA230803 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Text] The defense forces have completed their interrogation of the two terrorists captured in mid-December near Zar'it in the north, during an infiltration attempt. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal has details:

[Begin Tal recording] The interrogation of the two terrorists (Asam Mahmud Nabulusi) and (Mahmud Yusuf Ziyad) shows that their mission was planned by Yasir 'Arafat's deputy, Abu Jihad. He defined their mission as indiscriminate killing at Moshav Zar'it. After the completion of the mission the terrorist squad was scheduled to withdraw to the Lebanese territory and to hand themselves over to the UNIFIL troops. Abu Jihad told them that the innocent UNIFIL people, as he called them, could be tricked and could be used as a convenient means of transportation back to the terrorists' base in Tyre.

The weapons captured in the possession of the squad, Kalashnikov rifles, RPG rocket launchers and handgrenades, show that their task was indeed indiscriminate killing and not taking hostages for bargaining.

The squad left its base with a Lebanese guide named (Hasin Abu Asad). He was enlisted by Fatah to serve as guide for terrorists on their way to perpetrate terrorist attacks in Israel.

The interrogation also revealed that two previous attempts by this squad to infiltrate into Israel failed because of the squad leader's hesitation. On one of these abortive infiltraton attempts he pretended to be ill and handed himself over to UN troops. The squad returned to its base after they had received medical treatment and their weapons had been returned to them by UNIFIL, the day after they were captured. [end recording]

ALIGNMENT TO VOTE AGAIN GOLAN HEIGHTS BILL

TA221438 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Dec 80

[Text] By a large majority, the Alignment faction has decided to vote against the Tehiya faction's bill on applying Israeli law on the Golan Heights if it is submitted this week. Sixteen Alignment members were in favor of opposing the bill at this time, with just four--Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino, Shlomo Hillel, Tamar Eshel and Ze'ev Katz--holding that the Labor Party should abstain. In the discussion most of the speakers said that the Labor Party will not be dragged along after Ge'ule Kohen's initiative, and if the time is propitious it will submit its own bill.

On another issue, the Alignment faction decided to back Moshe Dayan's motion to examine the possibility of implementing autonomy in Judaea and Samaria unilaterally. Shim'on Peres said the Alignment will vote for referring this motion to committee.

TEHIYA FACTION TO SUBMIT NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION

TA221626 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Dec 80

[Text] The Tehiya faction has decided that this week it will not submit its bill for the application of Israeli law on the Golan Heights. This comes in the wake of the decisons by the Cabinet and by the Labor Party to vote against that bill.

However, the faction has decided that it will submit tomorrow a motion of no confidence in the government because of its decision on the Golan. MK Ge'ula Kohen said the Cabinet's decision was traitorous and foolish. The no-confidence motion will likely be debated on 24 December.